


## ANALYSIS

This ordinance repeals those provisions of Title 29 - Mechanical Code of the Los Angeles County Code, which had incorporated portions of the 2010 Edition of the California Mechanical Code by reference and replaces them with provisions incorporating portions of the 2013 California Mechanical Code, published by the California Building Standards Commission, with certain changes and modifications. Unless deleted or modified herein, the previously enacted provisions of Title 29 continue in effect.

State law requires that the County's Mechanical Code contain the same requirements as are contained in the building standards published in the most recent edition of the California Mechanical Code. State law allows the County to change or modify these requirements only if it determines that such changes or modifications are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. The changes and modifications to the requirements contained in the building standards published in the 2013 California Mechanical Code, which are contained in this ordinance, are based upon express findings, contained in the ordinance, that such changes are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

This ordinance also makes certain modifications to the administrative provisions of Title 29.

JOHN F. KRATTLI  
County Counsel

By   
CAROLE B. SUZUKI  
Deputy County Counsel  
Public Works Division

CBS:lm

Requested: 08/28/13  
Revised: 10/21/13

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-0051**

An ordinance amending Title 29 - Mechanical Code of the Los Angeles County Code, by adopting portions of the 2013 California Mechanical Code, by reference, with certain changes and modifications, and making other revisions thereto.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Sections 119.1.2 through 119.1.14 of Chapter 1, Chapters 2 through 17, and Appendices B, C, and D, which incorporate by reference and modify portions of the 2010 California Mechanical Code, are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 2.** Section 100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**100 -- ADOPTION BY REFERENCE.**

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Sections 1.2.0 through 1.14.0 of Chapter 1, Division I of that certain Mechanical Code known and designated as the ~~2010~~2013 California Mechanical Code as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, and shall be known as Sections 119.1.2.0 through 119.1.14.0, respectively, of Chapter 1 of Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Chapters 2 through 17, and Appendices B, C, and D of that certain Mechanical Code known and designated as the ~~2010~~2013 California Mechanical Code as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, and shall be known as

Chapters 2 through 17 and Appendices B, C, and D of Title 29 of the Los Angeles County Code.

A copy of the 2010~~2013~~ California Mechanical Code shall be at all times maintained by the Chief Mechanical Inspector for use and examination by the public.

**SECTION 3.** Section 103 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**103 -- SCOPE.**

...

Where, in any specific case, different sections of this Code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

Where the requirements of this Code conflict with the requirements of Title 28 - Plumbing Code of the Los Angeles County Code, the Plumbing Code shall prevail.

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**SECTION 4.** Section 107 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**107 -- ALTERNATE MATERIALS AND METHODS OF**

**CONSTRUCTION AND MODIFICATIONS.**

**107.1 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.**

**107.1.1 Purpose and Intent.** Nothing in this Code is intended to

prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this Code. Technical documentation shall be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have



the authority to approve or disapprove the system, method, or device for the intended purpose.

...

**107.1.2 Application.**

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**107.1.3 Testing.** The Authority Having Jurisdiction may require any applicant to perform testing, in support of its application, in accordance with the following:

~~107.3.1~~ Tests shall be made in accordance with approved testing standards by an approved testing agency at the expense of the applicant. In the absence of such standards, the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall have the authority to specify the test procedure.

~~107.3.2~~ The Authority Having Jurisdiction may require tests to be made or repeated if, at any time, the Authority Having Jurisdiction has reason to believe that any previously approved alternate material or device no longer conforms to the requirements on which its approval was based.

**107.2 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this Code, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may grant minor modifications on a case by case basis, provided the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall first find that a special individual reason makes the strict letter of this Code impractical and that the modification is in reasonable conformity with the spirit and purpose of this Code and that such modification does not lessen any health,

fire-protection, or other life-safety related requirements. The details of any action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**SECTION 5.** Section 111.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**111.2 Permit Application.** To obtain a permit, the applicant shall file an application on forms furnished for that purpose. The application shall contain all information necessary to the lawful enforcement of the provisions of this Code.

~~Applications for permits for which no permit is issued within one year following the date of application shall expire by limitation. Plans and specifications previously submitted may thereafter be returned to the applicant or destroyed by the Chief Mechanical Inspector. The Chief Mechanical Inspector may grant up to two extensions of up to 180 days per extension beyond the initial one year limit upon written request by the applicant showing that circumstances beyond the control of the applicant have prevented action from being taken and upon the payment of an extension fee in an amount determined by the Chief Mechanical Inspector, not to exceed 25 percent of the plan check fee.~~

When no permit is issued within one year following the date of the application therefor, the application shall automatically expire. Plans and specifications previously submitted may thereafter be returned to the applicant or destroyed by the Chief Mechanical Inspector. The Chief Mechanical Inspector may, before or after expiration of the application, grant up to two extensions not exceeding 180 days per extension, beyond the initial one-year limit upon written request by the applicant showing that

circumstances beyond the control of the applicant have prevented action from being taken and upon the payment of an extension fee as determined by the Chief Mechanical Inspector, not to exceed 25 percent of the plan check fee.

Once an application ~~and~~, including any extension(s) thereof ~~have~~has expired, the applicant shall file a new application, resubmit plans and specifications and pay a new plan checking or review fee.

**SECTION 6.** Section 113.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**113.2** **Expiration.** Every permit issued by the Building Official under the provisions of this Code shall expire by limitation, and become null and void, if the work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 180 days from the date of such permit, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days, or the permittee fails to obtain inspection as required by the provisions of Section 115 of this Code ~~at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days. Before such work can be recommenced, a new permit shall be first obtained, and the fee therefor shall be one-half the amount required for a new permit for such work provided no changes have been made or will be made in the original plans and specifications for such work; and provided, further, that such suspension or abandonment has not exceeded one year.~~

**EXCEPTION:** Permits issued to abate violation(s) in conjunction with a code enforcement action shall expire and become null and void at a date determined by the Building Official.

~~Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of the time~~



~~within which he may commence work under that permit when he is unable to commence work within the time required by this section for good and satisfactory reasons. The Building Official may extend the time for action by the permittee for a period not exceeding 180 days from the date of expiration upon written request by the permittee and payment of a fee in an amount determined by the Building Official, not to exceed equal to 25 percent of the permit fee. No permit shall be extended more than twice. In order to renew action on a permit after expiration, the permittee shall pay a new full permit fee. Once a permit, including any extension(s) thereof, has expired, the permittee shall file a new application as specified in Section 111.2.~~

**SECTION 7.** Section 204.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**204.0**                      **– B –**

...

**Building Code** – ~~The building code that is adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD1, HCD 2, and SFM]~~ "Building Code" shall mean the California Building Code, Title 24, ~~Part 2~~ most recent edition of Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code.

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**SECTION 8.** Section 207.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**207.0**                      **– E –**

...

**Electrical Code** – ~~The National Electrical Code promulgated by the National Fire Protection Association, as adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD 1 and HCD 2]. Whenever the term "Electrical Code" is used in this code, it shall mean the California Electrical~~

~~Code, Title 24, Part 3~~most recent edition of Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code.

...

**SECTION 9.** Section 218.0 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**218.0** – P –

...

**Plumbing Code** – ~~The Uniform Plumbing Code promulgated by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, as adopted by this jurisdiction. [HCD-1 and HCD-2]. Whenever the term "Plumbing Code" is used in this code, it shall mean the California Plumbing Code, Title 24, Part 5~~most recent edition of Title 28 of the Los Angeles County Code.

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**SECTION 10.** Section 501.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**501.1** **Applicability.** This eChapter includes requirements for environmental air ducts, product conveying systems, and commercial hoods and kitchen ventilation. Ventilation systems installed to control occupational health hazards shall comply with the requirements of the Health Officer.

**SECTION 11.** Section 508.4.1.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**508.4.1.5** **Medium to Low Temperature Appliances.** Type I hoods where the cooking equipment includes low-temperature appliances such as



medium-to-low temperature ranges, roasters, roasting ovens, pastry ovens, pizza ovens, and equipment approved for use under a Type II hood, ~~such as pizza ovens~~:

...

**SECTION 12.** Section 510.1.6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**510.1.6 Bracing and Supports.** Duct bracing and supports shall be of noncombustible material, securely attached to the structure, not less than the gauge required for grease duct construction, and designed to carry gravity and lateral loads within the stress limitations of the ~~b~~Building ~~e~~Code. Bolts, screws, rivets, and other mechanical fasteners shall not penetrate duct walls.

**SECTION 13.** Section 603.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**603.2 Metal Ducts.**

...

Supports for rectangular ducts shall comply with SMACNA HVAC Duct Construction Standards – Metal and Flexible, where suspended from above, shall be installed on two opposite sides of each duct and shall be welded, riveted, bolted, or metal screwed to each side of the duct at not more than the intervals specified.

...

**SECTION 14.** Section 1119.4 is hereby added to Section 1119.0 to read as follows:

**1119.4 Approvals Required.**

The method of discharge of systems containing other than group A1 refrigerants shall comply with the pertinent requirements of Title 32 - Fire Code and Division 2 of

Title 20 - Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste of the Los Angeles County Code. Where applicable, Section 1120 may be used with prior approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**SECTION 15.** The provisions of this ordinance contain various changes, modifications, and additions to the 2013 Edition of the California Mechanical Code. Some of these changes are administrative in nature in that they do not constitute changes or modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Mechanical Code.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5, the Board of Supervisors hereby expressly finds that all of the changes and modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code contained in this ordinance, which are not administrative in nature, are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles as more particularly described in the table set forth below.

**TABLE**

<b>MECHANICAL CODE AMENDMENTS</b>		
<b>CODE SECTION</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>EXPLANATION</b>
501.1	Climatic	Additional Health Department requirements are necessary due to local air quality concerns.
508.4.1.5	Climatic	Due to high temperature and dry conditions in Southern California, grease laden combustibles are a high fire hazard.

<b>MECHANICAL CODE AMENDMENTS</b>		
<b>CODE SECTION</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>EXPLANATION</b>
510.1.6	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitates this local amendment for bracing and support.
603.2	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitates this local amendment for bracing and support.
1119.4	Geological	High geologic activities, such as seismic events, in the Southern California area necessitates this local amendment to reduce damage and potential for toxic refrigerant release during a seismic event caused by shifting equipment and to minimize impacts to the sewer system in such an event.

**SECTION 16.** This ordinance shall become operative on January 1, 2014.

[TITLE292013SCC]



SECTION 17. This ordinance shall be published in The Daily Commerce a newspaper printed and published in the County of Los Angeles.



Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Chairman

ATTEST:

Sachi A. Hamai  
Sachi A. Hamai  
Executive Officer -  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that at its meeting of November 26, 2013 the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County of Los Angeles by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes  
Supervisors Gloria Molina  
Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Zev Yaroslavsky  
Don Knabe  
Michael D. Antonovich

Noes  
Supervisors None

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Operative Date: January 1, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai  
Sachi A. Hamai  
Executive Officer -  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that pursuant to  
Section 25103 of the Government Code,  
delivery of this document has been made:

SACHI A. HAMAI  
Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By [Signature]  
Deputy



APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
JOHN F. KRATTLI  
County Counsel

By [Signature]  
Richard D. Weiss  
Chief Deputy County Counsel